#### Zanjeros Help Commercial Properties Become Water Wise

For years Tucson Water's Zanieros have helped our customers save water by providing free water use analysis of homes and yards. Now, the Zanjeros have begun helping Tucson's business community in the same way, giving Tucson's commercial properties the



Fernando Molina examines water wise plantings at a local hotel.

information they need to use our community's water resources wisely.

Tucson Water is offering a FREE Water Efficiency Study to major commercial and industrial water customers. "The study allows business owners and managers to analyze water use at their facilities and helps them find cost-effective methods of using water wisely and implementing water savings," said Fernando Molina, Tucson Water's Water Conservation Manager. This study reviews the use of water for landscaping, processes, and cooling.

Owners or managers interested in the program can call 791-2616 or 349-0982 for more information.

# Your Water Connection

### Mayor and Council Discuss New Water Rates in August

Tucson's Mayor and City Council discuss a possible 4.3% overall increase in water rates at their August meeting. The recommendation for the increase comes from the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee, a diverse group of citizen volunteers who review and analyze the water rate structure.

During the last ten years, Tucson Water rates have increased less than 9%, but increases are needed to meet rising power costs, paying for water bonds approved by voters in 2000, and the additional costs of bringing water from the Clearwater Facility to supplement our dwindling groundwater resources.

August 2001 http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/

## Clearwater + Wise Water Use = Success In June Raising the Water Table

Tucson Water shut down 26 groundwater wells in June. That's not something that usually happens during Tucson's hottest season, but this year is not usual. Your wise use of water coupled with the 18 million gallons a day

of water from our new water resource at Clearwater, has allowed our operations staff to keep those wells "on standby" so far this summer.

The wells are located in critical areas of the central part of the city where

decades of over pumping have caused the water table to drop as much as 250 feet. Keeping the wells turned off will allow nature to begin to replenish our water table, decreasing the potential for environmental damage to our riparian areas and to the sands and gravels

underground that hold groundwater.

The threat of subsidence, the collapse of earth above areas where the water has been depleted, is also greatly reduced.

Thanks to your help, our water table is slowly beginning to recover after more than 50 years of decline.

Ted Sroka, Tucson Water's Operations Administrator, checks the system at the first well that was turned off in central Tucson. Thanks to you, groundwater wells stayed off in June.

#### Water Facts

Water used by Tucson Water customers during June

June water use
- daily average

Water delivered from Clearwater during June 4.04 billion gallons

134 million gallons

570 million gallons





#### On the Water Front

Over the past six months, Tucson Water has worked closely with Tucson's Mayor and Council, the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee, and the Customer Rate Design Group, volunteers

representing all of the classes of customers served by Tucson Water, to develop recommended water rates for the coming year. Together, these groups are proposing an overall water rate increase of 4.3%. If approved by Mayor and Council following a Public Hearing in September, the new rates will take effect in October.

The need to increase water rates is a result of a variety of factors. The most significant include the greatly increased cost of natural gas and electricity (as I write this, the cost of natural gas is nearly double what it was six months ago), our expanding use of CAP water, and higher costs associated with decreased pumping from the rapidly falling water table in central Tucson and replacing that water with the Clearwater blend from Avra Valley.

Tucson Water has made significant efforts in recent years to absorb these rising costs by working more efficiently, using new technology, and working with the power providers to obtain lower rates. In addition, we've used our financial reserves to address many of these cost increases. As a result,

during the past ten years, your cost of water has increased much less than the rate of inflation – less than 9% overall. Unfortunately, excess financial reserves are now nearly exhausted and costs continue to rise.

Because our water rates are

#### Clearwater Quality Report July 2001

41\* Sodium (ppm)

227 Mineral Content (ppm)

70\* Hardness (ppm)

8.1 pH (units)

Neg Coliform Bacteria

0.96 Chlorine level average (ppm)

87.8 Temp (deg F)

\* Values for June

designed so that residential customers who use high volumes of water pay a higher cost per gallon than those who use less, high volume users will see a higher percentage increase in the cost of their water than most other customers. Rates for businesses will also rise.

We will be talking with you more about water rates in the near future. In the meantime, Tucson Water will continue to work to provide you and your families with quality water at an affordable price.

David V. Modeer Director, Tucson Water

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/



The Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water.
To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to:

Customer Information
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

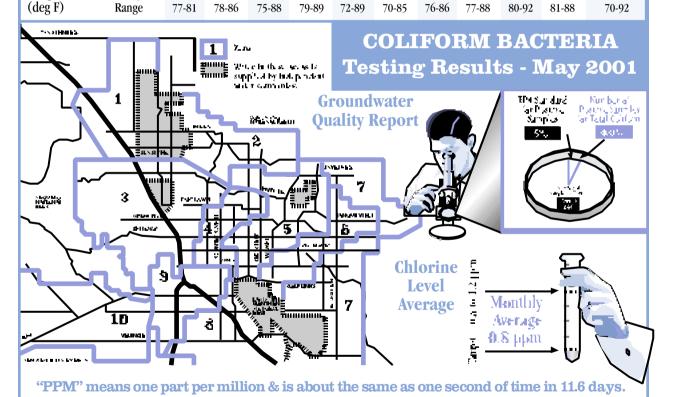
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Para recibir esta información en español, sírvase llamar al 791-4331.

#### **GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - May 2001** Water Quality System 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0 10 Zone Wide Sodium (ppm) Average 53 38 47 30 34 31 28 40 44 39 38 Range 35-72 37-41 26-60 26-38 28-40 23-39 22-36 36-45 38-52 37-42 22-72 Mineral Content Average 428 265 263 254 336 215 230 236 218 315 219 (ppm) Range 162-522 202-335 188-508 180-278 186-288 180-281 163-296 246-448 216-353 212-223 162-522 Hardness (ppm) Average 87 74 218 94 140 86 100 97 151 101 115 Range 176-275 87-112 77-193 65-123 76-95 90-110 62-110 98-254 74-169 72-78 62-275 pH (units) 7.6 Average 8.0 7.9 7.9 7.7 7.7 7.8 7.8 7.9 8.0 7.8 Range 7.2-7.9 7.6-8.3 7.4-8.3 7.5-8.2 7.2-8.2 7.0-8.2 7.3-8.1 7.4-8.0 7.5-8.2 7.7-8.2 7.0-8.3 83 84 81 84 86 86 82

81

79



To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10

78

Average

81

**Temperature** 

zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.